The Central Government is responsible for enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, in Railways, major ports, mines, oil fields and establishment under the control of the Central Government. In all other cases, State/UT Governments are responsible for enforcement of the Act. Employers found employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are prosecuted under the provisions of the Act.

Rescue of bonded labourers

3455. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seventy bonded labourers were rescued from two landlords at Khajurala village in Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what stern steps have been taken against the landlords who engaged the labourers and made them bonded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Forty bonded labourers engaged in the construction of a cold storage at village Khajurala, District Kapurthala in Punjab have been rescued.

(c) F.I.R. was registered against two persons accused in the matter, under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Both the accused were arrested and later released on bail.

Trade Unions' objection to amendments in I.D. Act

3456. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Central Trade Unions in the country are against the proposed amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) It has been reported that confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers and All India State Government Employees Federation have expressed concern about the alleged anti-labour policies. The Government has noted their concern.